

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 IO-13 EUR-12
ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SMS-02 SSM-03 /135 W
-----073804 031331Z /46

R 031255Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2255
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 18293

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG OAU EG
SUBJECT: GOE ASSESSMENT OF OAU SUMMIT

REF: CAIRO 16206

SUMMARY. GOE PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OAU SUMMIT AND BELIEVES IT PLAYED LEADERSHIP ROLE WHICH HELPED ASSURE MODERATES SUCCESS. "REJECTIONISTS" REBUKED ON MIDDLE EAST AND MAJORITY AFRICANS CONTINUE SUPPORT SADAT INITIATIVE. PUBLIC AIRING OF SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITIES WAS HEALTHY PRECEDENT. ERITREAN PROBLEM ALSO AIRED BUT MORE SIGNIFICANT WAS NYERERE'S BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACTIVITIES VIS-A-VIS MENGISTU, WHICH SADAT SUPPORTED WITH HIS OWN MESSAGE. REACTIVATION AND STRENGTHENING OF OAU MEDIATION MACHINERY WAS CONCRETE ACCOMPLISHMENT. U.S. ESCAPED SERIOUS CRITICISM LARGELY BECAUSE OF NAMIBIA AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFFS AUGUST 1, MFA AFRICAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AHMED SIDQI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME OF OAU SUMMIT WHERE HE HAD SPENT TWO BUSY WEEKS.
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SIDQI SAID EGYPTIAN DEL HAD PLAYED VERY ACTIVE ROLE, WHEREAS EGYPT'S PREOCCUPATION WITH PEACE PROCESS IN LAST FEW YEARS HAD LED OTHER DELS TO EXPECT EGYPT TO CONCENTRATE ONLY ON THAT ISSUE.

2. MIDDLE EAST. EGYPT HAD GONE TO KHARTOUM WITH DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON BOTH MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE. SIDQI SAID

THEY HAD PRESENTED THEM TO "REJECTIONISTS" AT BEGINNING WITH REQUEST FOR COMMENTS. AT SAME TIME HE HAD LET LIBYAN FORMIN TURAYKI KNOW THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO SEEK CONFRONTATION WOULD BE MET WITH STRONG EGYPTIAN ATTACK AGAINST LIBYAN ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN CHAD. (LIBYAN PERFORMANCE, SIDQI SAID, WAS POOR THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE AND BY THE END WHEN TURAYKI GOT UP TO MAKE INTERCESSIONS THERE WERE AUDIBLE GROANS AND BOOS.) ALGERIA TOO HAD BEEN PUT IN ITS PLACE WHEN IT CALLED FOR AMENDMENT TO MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION OMITTING THE WORDS "BY ALL MEANS" AFTER RESTORATION OF ARAB RIGHTS. BEFORE EGYPTIAN DEL HAD EVEN HAD CHANCE TO PROTEST, GHANAIA FORMIN HAD STOOD UP AND MADE CLEAR MAJORITY OF AFRICANS APPROVED INCLUSION OF TERM "BY ALL MEANS" SINCE THEY FAVOR SADAT INITIATIVE. ALGERIAN HAD QUICKLY SAT DOWN. FINAL RESOLUTION WAS CLOSE TO EGYPTIAN ORIGINAL AND HAD AVOIDED ZIONISM/RACISM REFERENCE.

3. CUBAN ACTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH EGYPT REALIZED EARLY ON ANY ATTEMPT TO EXPELL CUBA FROM NAC OR EVEN POSTPONE HAVANA MEETING SINE DIE WOULD NOT OBTAIN MAJORITY, SUMMIT WAS PARTICULARLY NOTABLE, IN SIDQI'S VIEW, FOR DISCUSSION OF SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA "FOR THE FIRST TIME." INCLUSION IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE WORDS "IMPERIALISMS" AND "HEGEMONISM" ACCOMPLISHED EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVE OF PUTTING CUBA ON NOTICE THAT ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTIVITIES ARE NOT WELCOME IN AFRICA.

4. SAHARA. EGYPTIAN/MOROCCAN OBJECTIVE OF KEEPING SAHARA ISSUE BOTTLED UP IN OAU HAD ALSO BEEN ACHIEVED AS EVIDENCED BY FACT THAT NAC FORMINS IN BELGRADE HAD REFUSED TO INCLUDE IT ON AGENDA IN VIEW OF ITS CONTINUING CONSIDERATION BY OAU.

5. ERITREA/ETHIOPIA. SIDQI WAS PLEASED THAT ERITREAN ISSUE HAD BEEN AIRED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY OAU DESPITE ETHIOPIA'S POSITION THAT IT IS INTERNAL PROBLEM. NYERERE'S BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACTIVITY IN KHARTOUM AND HIS MEETING IN ADDIS WITH MENGISTU REPRESENTED POSITIVE MOVE TOWARD POSSIBLE RESOLUTION OF ERITREAN PROBLEM THROUGH OAU. NYERERE, SIDQI REVEALED, HAD TAKEN A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SADAT TO MENGISTU URGING NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ERITREA AND NON-RELIANCE ON FOREIGN POWERS. SADAT MESSAGE HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND REINFORCED NYERERE'S POSITION. SIDQI NOTED IN PASSING THAT NYERERE HAD TOLD EGYPTIANS THAT SOVIETS WERE NOT AT ALL PLEASED BY HIS MEDIATION EFFORT. SIDQI SAID NYERERE AND OTHERS HOPE THAT MENGISTU MAY, IN THE LONG TERM, BE

PERSUADED TO ADOPT TRUE NONALIGNED POSITIONS AND BEGIN GETTING RID OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS. THERE IS ALREADY INDICATION, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SOVIETS HAVE CHOSEN MENGISTU'S SUCCESSOR AND ARE SETTING HIM UP TO BECOME HEAD OF NEW GOVERNING PARTY WHICH MAY BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME OF SEPTEMBER CELEBRATION. EGYPT, SIDQI SAID, HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND CELEBRATIONS AND PLANNED TO ATTEND. AS FAR AS SAUDI ARABIA'S AND OTHER NON-AFRICAN STATES CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET/CUBAN PENETRATION OF ETHIOPIA, SIDQI SAID, THEY ARE BEING REQUESTED NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED AND GIVE TIME FOR AFRICAN EFFORTS TO BEAR FRUIT.

4. MEDIATION. ALTHOUGH NO DECISIVE ACTIONS HAD BEEN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 18293

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TAKEN BY SUMMIT, SIDQI SAID IT WAS CONSIDERED A POSITIVE MEETING. MODERATES OUTNUMBERED "PROGRESSIVES" BY 17 AGAINST 13 WITH REMAINDER NEUTRAL OR SILENT AND MODERATES HAD FORCEFULLY SPOKEN OUT AND CARRIED THE DAY ON MOST ISSUES. IN DEALING WITH REGIONAL DISPUTES, MEMBERS HAD REAFFIRMED THAT THEY STRONGLY PREFER TO DEAL WITH THEM IN OAU CONTEXT AND THERE HAD BEEN REACTIVATION AND STRENGTHENING OF OAU MEDIATING MACHINERY. NEW SECGEN HAD PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN BRINGING THIS ABOUT.

5. U.S. U.S. HAD NOT BEEN ATTACKED AND THERE WAS IN

FACT LITTLE CRITICISM OF ITS ROLE OR ALLEGED PASSIVITY
VIS-A-VIS SOVIET/CUBANS IN AFRICA. SIDQI ATTRIBUTED
THIS LARGELY TO U.S. ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT NAMIBIA
ACCORD. IT IMPORTANT THEREFORE THAT IT BE IMPLEMENTED
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT UNPRECEDENTED
NATURE OF OAU FORMALLY APPROVING WESTERN FIVE INITIATIVE.
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